

News Release

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Program Announcement

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATE FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, July 2, 1998 -- Keith Kelly, Executive Vice President of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market prices, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price or AWP), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (leaf grade 4, micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality), and the coarse count adjustments (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, July 9. The user marketing certificate (Step 2) payment rate in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 3 through midnight Thursday, July 9 is 13.50 cents per pound.

The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: 1) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and 2) the USNE price exceeds the NE price. This week, both conditions for this adjustment have been met, and it has been determined that this further adjustment to the AWP shall be 0.0 cents per pound.

This week's AWP and CCA are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	71.06
Adjustments:	
Avg. U.S. spot market location	12.08
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.90
Avg. U.S. location	0.14
Sum of Adjustments	- 14.12
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	56.94 cents/lb.

This week, the needed quotations for coarse count cottons were unavailable for all five days. Thus, the coarse count adjustment is set equal to the adjustment of last week, zero.

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Because the AWP for the period exceeds 51.92 cents per pound, which is the base quality loan rate, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the loan rate, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges.

Step 2 payments are provided this week because, for four consecutive weeks, the USNE price has exceeded the NE price by more than 1.25 cents per pound and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the loan rate for upland cotton. Relevant data for the Step 2 program follow:

Week	Fri/Thur Period Ending	AWP as % of 1997 Loan Rate 1/	USNE Price	NE Price	USNE Less NE Price	Step 2 Rate
..... cents/lb						
1	6/11/98	105.9	80.10	67.37	12.73	11.48
2	6/18/98	107.2	80.50	68.15	12.35	11.10
3	6/25/98	109.2	82.40	69.12	13.28	12.03
4	7/02/98	109.7	84.95	70.20	14.75	13.50

1/ The marketing year 1997 loan rate is 51.92 cents per pound.

The next announcement of the AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rate will occur on Thursday, July 9 at 5 p.m.

Further program information is available from Wayne Bjorlie,
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